

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 29 as follows:

The process described above can be extended by repeating the concatenation and hashing of the resultant double digest, as represented in Figure 3, so that users (possibly a plurality of users with different roles in a communication or negotiation) can add multiple separate conditions if required. Thus the processing of the additional condition 200 shown in FIG. 3 is representative of the processing of any other such additional conditions of said multiple separate conditions. Further extensions include applying procedures for timestamping of the conditional electronic signatures.

Please add the following paragraphs between lines 35 and 36 on page 9.

-- In Figure 3 a message 10, representing a data item, is hashed 40 to generate a digest 50 of the message 10. The conditions 20 and 200 are each hashed 40 separately from each other and separately from the message 10 to generate the digests 50 and 210 respectively corresponding to the conditions 20 and 200. Each additional condition 200 of the multiple separate conditions is similarly hashed 50 to generate the corresponding digest 210. Thus, the digests 50 and 200 collectively represent multiple digests.

Figure 3 depicts processing the multiple digests in an loop (i.e., in an iterative process), wherein each iteration of the loop concatenates a reference digest with a unique digest of the multiple digests, wherein the reference digest is an output digest of the immediately preceding iteration. Initially, the reference digest is the digest 50 resulting from hashing 40 the message 10. In the

first iteration, the reference digest 50 is concatenated with the unique digest of the first iteration (i.e., the unique digest resulting from the hash of the condition 20) to generate a concatenand (i.e., the double digest 70). The concatenand 70 is hashed 80 to generate a hashed double digest 90 which becomes the reference digest for the second iteration. In the second iteration, the reference digest 90 is concatenated with the unique digest of the second iteration (i.e., the digest 210) to generate a concatenand (i.e., the double digest 230). The concatenand 230 is hashed 240 to generate the reference digest for a third iteration (if there is a third iteration) or the final digest 250 (if there is no third iteration, as in Figure 3). The reference digest outputted from the last iteration of the loop is called the “last digest” (e.g., the final digest 250 in Figure 3).

In Figure 3, the last digest (i.e., final digest 250) is encrypted 100 to generate a digital signature block or signature 260. The encrypting 100 comprising signing the last digest with a digital signature comprised by a signer who performs the signing using a private key 30. The digital signature block or signature 260 represents the message 10, the condition 20, and condition(s) 200 and enables cryptographic verification of the message 10, the condition 20, and condition(s) 200. --